

Next 47 Page(s) In Document Exempt

25X1

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO. **INFORMATION REPORT**

COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

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SUBJECT 1. Build-up of Military Strength in Bohemia
 2. Recent Military Research and Development
 3. Miscellaneous Military and Political Information

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION FOR THE RESEARCH
 USE OF TRAINED INTELLIGENCE ANALYSTS

1. The Czechoslovak Army officer corps is practically disorganized as a result of the recent heavy purges. The Russians promised equipment for ten divisions but as yet only four have been equipped. Equipment for two more is supposed to be forthcoming this summer. Army material is non-standardized and inadequate and is rapidly wearing out. No agreement has been reached yet with the Russians regarding the specifications of weapons. Of late the trend in the Army has been to reduce the higher units in the interior to cadre strength and to build up the strength of units along the Bavarian border. The 1st and 11th Divisions are guarding the Bavarian border. The Second Brigade (sic) has recently been shifted from Banska Bystrica (south-central Slovakia) to the Vimperk (Winterberg, N50/Q46)-Klatovy (Klattau, N50/L00) area. In addition, the 4th Regiment of the 13th Division has been shifted from Hradec Kralove to the Plzen area as a reserve. The Anti-Tank Regiment at Slany (N51/F50) has been raised to wartime strength by reducing other anti-tank artillery units.

2. The mobilization plans which are now in force were drawn up last year and cover the period ending February 1949.

3. Notes on military research and development:

- a. The Military Technical Institute, which has laboratories at Podmokly, Tanvald (Tannwald), and Prague, has about 700 employees, mostly civilian technicians.
- b. Although a certain amount of progress has been made with rocket-type small arms, portable radio communication, and ultra short wave radio, these are still in the experimental stage.
- c. A new automatic 9-mm rifle has been developed and is now being distributed to some units.
- d. Two permanent radar stations are now being built, one at Ince, south of Prague near Prikran, and the other near Louny (Laun, N51/F31), northwest of Prague. The material being used is German war booty.
- e. The production of heavy weapons is still meeting with difficulties. The 210-mm cannon which the Russians ordered as a prototype failed its firing tests last year but is still being worked on. No tanks are being produced because of lack of engines. Skoda's cannon production is being moved to its factory at Dubnica (Slovakia).

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-2-

4. The Russian Military Attache's Office in Prague keeps a close check on activities at the Military Technical Institute. Osokin, the Assistant Military Attache, makes frequent visits to the laboratory at Podmokly and takes away reports on the progress of researches. However, the Russians usually reject requests of the Institute for special weapons or materials. Many of the special materials used by the Institute have been obtained by Colonel Schejbal, the Czech Military Attache in Washington. The Russian Military Attache, Sizov, and his staff have ready access to the Czech General Staff and do not hesitate to ask the most direct questions on military matters. Colonel Reicin and General Prochazka are in most frequent contact with the Russian Embassy.
5. Benes timed his resignation after the elections so as not to head a government he considered illegal. His last words to Hasal were that the world should know that he had resigned because of deep differences with the Communists "not only ideological but profoundly material", but did not explain what he meant by the latter phrase. During the last days that Hasal saw him, Benes' health seemed to be improving. He intended to spend the summer at Sezimovo Usti and then move into an apartment in Prague opposite the Foreign Office which is now being made ready for him.
6. Gottwald has considerably enlarged the Presidential Chancellery and has introduced a new economic advisory council which is responsible only to him. This would indicate that he intends to keep his hand in the actual running of the government to a much greater extent than did Benes. Gottwald pointed out that cooperation between him and Hasal would be impossible and eased the latter out of his position. The present Chief of the President's Military Chancellery is Brigadier General Bulandr, a Communist, who was Military Attache in Algiers during the war.

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